

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Board of Police Commissioners Community Meeting Thursday, October 9, 2003

The Community meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, October 9, 2003, at 6:30 p.m., at American Axle and Manufacturing, Inc, 1840 Holbrook, Detroit, MI 48212.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Willie E. Hampton **(ABS)**
Arthur Blackwell, II
Erminia Ramirez
Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Megan Norris **(ABS)**

Department Personnel Present

DC Cara Best.
DC Ronald Haddad
Cmdr. Hall
Cmdr. Kohls
Cmdr. Shelby
Cmdr. Moreland
Insp. C. Jackson
Insp. McFarley
Insp. Aultery
Lt. R. Moore
Lt. Berry
Lt. T. Cannon
Lt. R. Lawrence
Lt. Tate
Lt. Robinson
Sgt. Jackson
Sgt. Julian
Sgt. Rutherford
Sgt. Bennett
Sgt. Stephens
Sgt. H. Kincaid

Department Personnel Present

Sgt. Henning
Sgt. Farley

Sgt. McGee
Inv. John Boyle
PO Woods
PO Bouyer
PO Juan Reynoso
PO Gargettson
PO Chris Sullians
PO Davis
PO Howard Sweeney
PO C. Dixon
PO Kim Gabriel
PO David Sanders
PO Don Painter
PO Joshua Selby
PO Keith McCloud
PO K. Purdy
PO D. Anderson
PO Mitchell
PO D. Davis
PO Aboir
PO (Central Photo)
Audio Visual Unit
Civilian Ruby Motts
Civilian Dorian Bishop
Civilian Emanuel Clayton

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Exec. Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Investigator
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
Michelle McDonald, Community Affairs Coordinator
Lt. Roosevelt Lawrence, Personnel Services Division

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Walters
Dawn Counts

Bernice Smith
Alicia Robinson

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Blackwell called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:45 p.m.

Commissioner Vann read the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: **Comm. Vann** made the motion to approve the minutes of Thursday, October 2, 2003.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Ms. Carrie Gray welcomed the Board of Police Commissioners and the public to American Axle and Manufacturing, Inc. on behalf of the Chairman, Co-founder and CEO, Mr. Richard Delk.

**RESOLUTION HONORING
MR. JOHN THOMPSON**

WHEREAS Mr. John Thompson is a lifelong resident and community leader in the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thompson has demonstrated dedication and a desire to improve the enrichment of the city by investing his time and money into Honest John's Bar. He transformed two vacant businesses

that had sat dormant, into a state of the art bar and grill. This major commitment enhances and revitalizes the area known as the Cass Corridor; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thompson is well known for his fund raising efforts. He has raised hundreds of dollars over the past years for local churches and charitable organizations; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thompson's greatest contribution is to the toy giveaway at Christmas, which distributes toys to needy children throughout the city on Christmas morning. He personally purchases thousands of toys, and spends several days wrapping them; and

WHEREAS Mr. Thompson, in addition to the aforementioned activities, still finds time to assist with Thirteenth Precinct Relations projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the City of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the generous spirit of Mr. Thompson. His unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in his community and throughout the City of Detroit merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Mr. John Thompson.

/s/ Willie Hampton
Chairperson

/s/Arthur Blackwell
Vice Chairperson

/s/Megan P. Norris
Commissioner

/s/Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Commissioner

/s/Erminia Ramirez
Commissioner

DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

OCTOBER 9, 2003

MOTION: **Comm. Vann** made the motion to adopt the resolution for Mr. Thompson.

SECOND: **Comm. Ramirez** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Comm. Blackwell stated that there is an action that requires the Board to vote. It is an amendment or revision to the Office of the Chief Investigator - Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). He turned the action to Exec. Dir. Goss for a brief explanation.

Exec. Dir. Goss stated that the proposed changes in the SOP were directed by the Department of Justice (DOJ) consent decree. There are no real fundamental changes; they are just revisions and a few changes in the names of the SOP, and clarification of different responsibilities between the Office of the Chief Investigator and Internal Affairs.

Comm. Blackwell asked is there any discussion by the Board?

Comm. Vann asked is this the document that I am seeing here?

Exec. Dir. Goss answered yes.

Comm. Vann asked how do we know which changes are actually being made? Do you have a side-by-side here where we can.... or did you highlight any areas where changes were being made so we could make comparisons?

Exec. Dir. Goss stated they were supposed to be highlighted.

Comm. Blackwell asked are these the underlined?

Comm. Vann stated that he did not have any highlights in his.

Comm. Blackwell asked if these were the items that the Board challenged in Section 7.1103? I don't know if these are revisions or not. They seem like the same particular policies.

Exec. Dir. Goss stated that they are the same policies; it is just changing a few words here and there.

Comm. Blackwell stated okay.

Exec. Dir. Goss stated just name changes.

Comm. Vann stated that language changes policies. For example, I have finished reading that we establish policies, rules and regulations in consultation with the Chief of Police and approval of the Mayor. They have like turned the language around. So I am trying to figure out where were the

originals and if we had the side-by-side, we would know exactly what or how the language was changed. Does it change the intent? Does it change? I am trying to understand from the Executive Director. Are you aware of the changes?

Exec. Dir. Goss stated yes I am aware. There are approximately ten (10) changes in the document.

Comm. Vann answered okay. It would have been helpful for the Board to have a document that shows us exactly what articles we are being asked to agree upon to change and the change of the language so that we would be intelligent as to whether or not we had any questions about the language changes. We certainly want to be in cooperation and compliance with the Department of Justice (DOJ) but just for the sake of the intelligence of this commission, we want to know what we are doing.

Exec. Dir. Goss stated that it was supposed to be in the packets and I apologize that it is not.

Comm. Vann asked do we have to do this tonight?

Comm. Blackwell stated I didn't think we need to, but as I read it, I guess the issue is it just these three (3) items in addition. Is this two (2) sections here?

Exec. Dir. Goss answered no sir. It is throughout the document.

Comm. Blackwell stated it is throughout the document. Then what we will do is we will pass this item for today and bring it up at the next meeting. Can we get a motion on that?

Comm. Vann stated that I so move that we would ask our Executive Director to give us clearly delineated changes that are being proposed for these documents with side-by-sides of the original language and the proposed language so that we may be very intelligent in terms of how we are going to pass this and bring it back to us at our next meeting.

MOTION: Comm. Vann made the motion to pass for the day the OCI Standard Operating Procedures.

SECOND: Comm. Ramirez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Weekly Count of Complaints:	9	895
Weekly Count of Allegations:	18	1,955
Arrest	0	90
Demeanor	8	583
Entry	0	36
Force	1	159
Harassment	1	66
Procedure	6	690
Property	0	99
Search	0	68
Service	2	163

Pending Cases

As of October 8, 2003, the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) has a total of **640 pending cases**, which include **122 cases** with an age of 0-45 days, **55 cases** with an age of 46-60 days, **155 cases** with an age of 61-90 days, and **94 cases** with an age of 91-120 days, **113 cases** with an age of 121 days – 6 months, and **101 cases** with an age of 7-9 months.

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During the past week:	15	Year to Date:	853
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5. REPORT/PRESENTATION – CHIEF OF POLICE

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT **MIND'N OUR BUSINESS**

Board of Police Commissioners

The Detroit Police Department's mission is building a safer Detroit through community partnerships. Therefore, the following enforcement actions were conducted during the week of October 1st -7th, 2003.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)

On October 2, 2003, members of SRT provided a tactical/dignitary protection detail at the Marriott Hotel, for Director of Homeland Security, Tom Ridge. This effort was designed to afford the Secret Service an additional resource capable of a quick, organized, rapid response with highly trained tactical personnel.

SIXTH PRECINCT

On October 5, 2003, officers of the Sixth Precinct received a police run to the 13500 block of Evergreen, "Investigate person shot at the location". Upon arrival at the location the officers got no response at the location. However, information was obtained from Medics to respond to 14000 block of Crescent on a shooting. The officers responded to the location on Crescent and spoke with a male who stated he witnessed his step-daughter being shot. As a result of the officers' quick response, the wanted subject was arrested for murder and conveyed to Detroit Receiving Hospital.

THIRTEENTH PRECINCT

On October 2, 2003, officers of the Thirteenth Precinct set up surveillance in the area of Park and Temple regarding a narcotics complaint. The officers observed three suspicious suspects in the vicinity. Several unknown males approached suspect #2 with money in hand, while suspect #1 reached into a tree and grabbed suspected narcotics and handed it to the buyers. Suspect #3 was also observed selling suspected narcotics to several people. The officers arrested all three suspects without incident "Possession With Intent to Deliver Cocaine" and recovered the suspected narcotics

Chief of Police Jerry A. Oliver, Sr.

6. PRESENTATION – CIVIL RIGHTS INTERGRITY BUREAU

DC Cara Best, Civil Rights Integrity Bureau gave the following Power Point presentation: **(See Attached)**

Comm. Vann stated that this is a very awesome task and responsibility that DC Cara Best has been given.

DC Best stated I had black hair when I started this.

Comm. Vann stated that we are wishing you the best in this very awesome responsibility. I have a few questions as it relates to the Board of Police Commissioners because in the entire presentation and on most presentations that we have heard; not just from you, the connection to the Board is not really delineated with clarity. All of what I have heard so far seems to indicate that there are a lot of policy implications as it relates to the compliance of the police department to the DOJ. I am very interested in how this process is arrived at especially as it relates to the input coming from the Board and the communication of those recommendations and discussions and dialogue back to the Board so that as we formulate policy together, which is a part of our mandate charter to establish the policy that is the purview of the Board. Of course, in consultation, in cooperation and collaboration with all of the other entities. It just does not appear that we have an equal partnership thus far. I would hope that maybe you would want to address that and I would hope that in the future as we go through this process together, it is going to be a tedious process trying to bring up to compliance; trying to make sure that we meet these deadlines. It is going to be very awesome trying to make sure that the changes that we are mandated to do are actually made and implemented as you say. That the proper training is there and that everybody gets it. That the needle moves and that people are motivated especially people who are maybe a long time members of the organization and understand the changes on the horizon and everybody is going to have to step up to that mandate. I just want to make sure because you mentioned Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI), which is under the purview of the Commission, but we are not really in the loop of what is going on.

DC Best stated I think you are right. I think in the past, by the time it gets to the Board, its kind of a done deal. That is the way that we have been operating and we have not had very good communication especially with regard to the consent decree. One of the things that we know is that paragraph 111 of the conditions of the Use of Force consent decree states that everybody who is affected by this even on the DPD or other city agencies have to be trained on this. I have to put a copy of the consent decree in their hot little hands and we are prepared. We have called and asked for a date that we could sit down with the Board and actually walk through some training with the Board so that and it is not to say that you have not read the consent decree, I know that you have. The bottom line is that we all need to make sure that we are all on the same wavelength.

It was also my understanding that because of the fact that the DOJ is now involved in and policy has to be written and reviewed and approved by them. My understanding was that DPD would write the policy, it would go to the DOJ and then when it came back, the Board would review it. If I am understanding the wrong way, then I probably should.....

Comm. Vann stated I would not know because we were not told.

DC Best stated okay.

Comm. Vann stated if that is the change, maybe DOJ should also be communicating with us or someone should have the responsibility with communicating with us if there are any changes in the rules so that we understand.

DC Best stated that was a board change I believe. That was a discussion between I want to say Commissioner Norris and the Monitor and the department. That is how I got that understanding.

Comm. Vann asked where we given a memo of that?

Exec. Dir. Goss stated that Comm. Norris told him that she would talk to the Board concerning that issue.

DC Best stated I tell you what I can do if it would make everyone happy and I think it would make things a little easier also. I think that what we could do while we are reviewing policy, even while it is gone to the DOJ, I could still submit it to the Board at the same time and that way when it comes back from DOJ, and they ask for changes, you will know exactly what changes they are asking for. I don't think there is anything that says we cant do that.

Comm. Vann stated I have said this before. I just think that the fact and when you look at it historically in a city like Detroit, with all of its unique demography and all of that, to be cited by the DOJ for civil rights violations just does not sound good to me in the first place. I will not even go into the spill that I made about that before but if there is any way that we can help together collaboratively to expedite the process of taking care of what the federal government is saying that we need to take care of and working together to accomplish that without a lot ofI mean with a open type of communication. I don't think that the Board seeks in any way and I know I don't as a Commissioner to micromanage police affairs or activities in that regard but just to live up to the mandate of what we have been commissioned here to do I think it is very important so I would just hope that we would continue the communication and collaboration together.

DC Best stated and I did not take it that way. I did not take it that the Board was trying to micromanage. I think it is important that we understand and when I say we, I mean the entire community understands that when these policies come out, we are all going to be affected by it so the more people who have input in that the merrier. As they leave the Chief's office, before

they go or at the same time that they go to the DOJ, I can make arrangements for them to get to the Board.

Comm. Vann stated that is good.

DC Best stated that was very easy.

Comm. Blackwell stated just to bring a little further clarification. We are very clear that the Board of Police Commissioners were cited by the overall Department of Justice (DOJ) and some of its past failings as well. Comm. Megan Norris, the former chairperson of the Board is the representative who was sitting on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners at the DOJ Monitor meeting. Just like we voted for the first time a few months ago to modify or adopt a new standard operating procedures for the first time in 30 years, some of those procedures like Use of Force, Chase Policy, etc were a direct result of some of the critique of the DOJ and it had to come to us to be adopted. No matter what they do unless the DOJ suspends the powers of the Board of Police Commissioners which I don't know if they can do that, any policy change has to come to us or it can't be as part of the manual. You are right, whether we go in front of it, it would probably make more sense to be part of it since ultimately we have to approve it. But there is a member who has been active in this and unfortunately is not here today, has an obligation and responsibility to brief us on the meetings that she attends. I believe that the Mayor appointed Councilwoman Sharon McPhail so that these particular liaisons to this particular committee have responsibility to go back to the various bodies. But the point is well taken. That probably makes more sense at the end of the day since we have to vote up or down on this particular policies that we would have that input. Both points are well taken.

Comm. Vann asked DC Best what is the normal discipline for an officer for drunk-driving off-duty?

DC Best answered with the onset of the consent decree, there will be a matrix that develops certain types of discipline for certain types of behavior but right now there is nothing that says that he will get a certain number of days or a certain amount of time. There is no matrix that deals with that. That is one of the things that we are putting together under the consent decree.

Comm. Vann stated what has been the general practice?

DC Best stated oh, I could not tell you. I really don't know. I would hate to put something out there and be wrong.

7. PRESENTATION – THIRTEENTH PRECINCT

Inspector Claudia Jackson, 13th Precinct Patrol introduced her staff on behalf of Commander Julius Higdon who was on vacation. She gave a general overview of the status of the 13th Precinct.

Comm. Vann stated that his church is located in the 13th Precinct and he is real witness of the hard work by Commander Higdon and so glad to know that we have a new Inspector. All of the men and women of the precinct work very hard. It is a precinct that is mixed with a lot of things going on both good and some not so good. It may probably be a very difficult precinct to try and get service to so I really wanted to commend the staff and the officers of the precinct and its leadership for a job well done.

Inspector Claudia Jackson responded, thank you sir.

8. QUARTERLY AWARDS

DC Ronald Haddad stated that DC Cara Best will present the certificates on behalf of the Chief of Police and the entire Executive staff.

The following civilians were presented with certificates:

Ms. Ruby Motts, Mr. Emanuel Clayton, Jr., Mr. Dorian Bishop, Michelle Douglas,

The following officers were presented with certificates:

PO Don Painter, PO Joshua Selby, PO William Davis, PO Keith McCloud, PO Kristie Purdy, PO D. Anderson, PO Pierre Mitchell, PO Christopher Sullians, PO Darryl Davis, PO Juan Reynoso, PO David Sanders, PO Howard Sweeney, PO Gary Abair, PO John Bouyer, PO Carl Dixon, PO Kimberly Gabriel,

The following investigator was presented with a certificate:

Investigator John Boyle

Comm. Vann stated it is so refreshing to see us get an opportunity to recognize officers and civilians that have wrought well and have done a good job. Often in the media and in other quarters, much is made out of officer's misconduct and the negative things that may happen in the course of police work. But, often times just take the time to talk to regular rank and file

officers, sometimes all they really need and deserve is just the peace of knowing that somebody cares and that people that they are trying to serve and the citizens that they give their lives for everyday are appreciative of what they do and I think that it is a great testament on our part and the part of the department and on this commission as a matter of fact with our leaders here to recognize these officers who do well and to encourage them. There are good officers who are underpaid and probably a bit overworked. It is just good to take the time to give honor to whom honor is due and hopefully we can continue to encourage good officers to continue to be good and recognizing the overwhelming majority of our officers everyday putting their lives on the line and making this city better for us. When people like to fret and complain, and are in trouble, the first thing they are going to do is call the Detroit Police Department so lets really take a good hard look and continue to honor officers that are doing well and serving the citizens well.

Comm. Blackwell stated that DC Haddad made mention that Detroit was the center of the world because there was the first ever American-Arab Economic summit held right here in the city of Detroit. Where not only regional local leaders but people from all over the world. The point is that not one incident and we are not talking about a baseball game, we are talking about an international event and the world now is very tense as it relates to US Arab middle-east relationships. What that says about Detroit which is an area that has the largest compliment of Arab-Americans and Chaldeans outside of the middle east. It says that Detroit is a place in the state of Michigan that the world needs to know about and I think that when people go back to their countries and talk about the Detroit Police Department and not in just this particular instance but we do it when we have any major event. Every major event we have in Detroit is extraordinary whether it is the Freedom Festival or the Parade, Detroit stands out. I think that we in Detroit should be proud of that and the other thing that we have to do.

Comm. Blackwell stated to Comm. Vann that his statements are well taken and this is a highlight of us as Commissioners not only to recognize the fine men and women in the department that do these things but as we recognize these individuals, there are hundreds of other examples of their colleagues that do similar things so they represent the best and brightest of the Detroit Police Department.

I think it is incumbent upon us and this is not about partisan politics but anytime the federal government can send 89 billion dollars to another country and 30 billion dollars to create a Department of Homeland Security; if they would just take two (2) or three (3) billion dollars and give it to the top twenty (20) police departments for pay raises for enforcement and all of

these other things, a lot of those problems would go away. Because when 911 happened, it was not the feds that responded, it was the locals who responded. It was police, fire, and EMS. So we have to make the debate understand that the people that take care of these problems are men and women who wear the uniforms and the civilians that stand behind them. We have to keep selling that message because when you see billions of dollars going and I am not saying that it is not for good reason, but when we hear that officers in this city have a starting salary that is below all of the major cities in the United States, we have to do something about it or we are not going to keep good officers.

9. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

10. **ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Bernice Smith was delighted to have Inspector Claudia Jackson at the 13th Precinct and also pleased with DC Best moving through the ranks. She expressed her concerns regarding B & E's of cars near the 13th precinct.

Ms. Walters expressed her concerns regarding the leaders responsible for reform keep the public aware of what is going on and why we are doing it so that it will make things easier for everyone. She thanked the officers for the jobs well done. She voiced her concern about a news report stating that the black journalists were not considering having their convention in Detroit.

Alicia Robinson, Detroit resident, addressed a problem regarding a home invasion to her home over 3 years ago. She has been vandalized, and threatening shots near her window. She states she has not gotten any results to her problem. She alleges a DTE employee recently threatened her and allegedly had broken down her door.

Dawn Counts addressed the issue concerning the black journalist convention. She asked is there was a liaison in the city that can find out why the city is losing their business.

Comm. Blackwell stated that without the details, he could not imagine the city would not do exactly what you say. That means dollars for Detroit and I know every opportunity to get conventions here is very aggressively sought. We will try to see what we can find out.

Comm. Vann stated that one of the things that he has been involved with conventions coming to the city before is one of the things that does happen with other cities is that they have a lot of incentives and a lot of money out there that they use to lure conventions in and a lot of perks that our city budget may not be in a position to offer. He has been involved in national bodies that have chosen to go in other places simply because these other cities were offering money and other kinds of perks in order for them to come there. They normally end up taking the best deal so there could be all kinds of extenuating circumstances involved. It could be an internal thing going on with any organization that is trying to come so it is not always. They may have said space Ms. Walters but that may not necessarily be the real answer. We will get the answer.

DC Best addressed Ms. Walters concern regarding the consent decree and how this needs to be taken to the community. There is a community component of this and we will be going to various community relations meetings. We will be going to the Comstat meetings and we will be talking to officers and community members. If you come to those meetings, you will hear us and after awhile you will get sick of me saying how many days we have left before we have to be in compliance.

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 16, 2003, @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien – Room 328-A
Detroit, MI 48226

12. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS

Executive Director

Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/fyh

